Non Aviator FAC Issue

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Non Aviator FAC

- CAS Conference (June 02, Quantico)
  - PPO was tasked to define requirements
    - Aviation determine if newly identified requirement can be filled w/ Aviator FACs
    - Requirements currently have not been defined by PPO
      - PPO sent draft JMETLs to Divisions
      - COAs will be briefed to LtGen Bedard at Ground Board in October
      - Outcome will be their proposed requirement

Issues

PPO's preliminary position

- Individuals, other than aviator FACs, are potentially as well qualified to coordinate fires, and this concept should be examined.
- There are not enough FACs to fulfill GCE requirement

- Current FAC T/O
  - Division Air Officer (AO) (LtCol), Asst Division AO (Maj), two FACs at Div HQ (Capt)
  - One AO (Maj) at regiment
  - Three FACs (Capt) per battalion, one of which is an AO

Background

- EWTGLANT- 5 classes per year @ 18-20 students* each
- EWTGPAC-7 classes per year @ 18-20 students* each
- TTECG- Provides Continuation training for Marine FACs as part of the CAX program
- Current T&R for the Marine FAC 7502 MOS implemented about a year ago
- EWTGLANT teaches Special Operations Spotters Course (SOSOC) 5 classes/year, 20 students per class
- EWTGLANT also teaches Fire Support Officer Course (FSO)- 4X per year 20 students per class (75% utilization rate)

* - 10-14 are USMC Aviators (120-150 per year)

Possible Challenges

- Increasing number of FACs increases burden on MAW
  - The requirement for CAS sorties for initial qualification will increase due to increase in Marine students at EWTGs
  - The MAWs do not have the sorties required to keep increased number of FACs proficient once in the fleet
- Proficiency of non-aviators
  - Non-aviators ***may*** require more controls to remain proficient.
  - Conflict for sorties between aviator vs non-aviator “FACs” in fleet.
- Quality of non-aviators
  - Imperative that only qualified non-aviators are trained
  - “Qualified” needs to be defined by MCCDC
  - Training is key to success

Road Ahead

- See what the GCE defines as its requirement.
- Once requirement is defined,
  - PPO/Aviation determine COAs
  - Look into implications of the COAs
    - Sorties
    - Currency/proficiency
    - Benefits
    - Cost
    - Manpower
  - PPO/Aviation determine the best COA to pursue